

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02722 031825Z

73

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/038 W

----- 024758

R 031731Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 678

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2722

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINR, BE

SUBJECT: BIO INFORMATION ON MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL COMMERCE

MICHEL TOUSSAINT

REF: A) STATE 87267; B) BDF, FEBRUARY 6,1973

1. TOUSSAINT'S PERIOD AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (FRANCOPHONE) HAS ADDED LITTLE LUSTER TO HIS REPUTATION REPORTED IN REF B, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE THAT OF A PERSON WITH A PLEASANT, OUTWARD MANNER BUT LACKING IN DEPTH.

2. HIS POWER BASE IN NAMUR PROVINCE WAS SOMEWHAT ERODED IN THE LAST ELECTION IN THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY THERE DID NOT BENEFIT FROM THE EXPOSURE HE RECEIVED IN THE LEBURTON CABINET, AS WAS THE CASE WITH RESPECT TO NEARLY ALL OTHER CABINET FIGURES. HIS POSITION IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEEMS DUE TO NEED FOR REGIONAL AND LINGUISTIC BALANCE, AS DOES ELEVATION OF THE POSITION FROM A STATE SECRETARYSHIP TO A MINISTRY.

3. TOUSSAINT REMAINS LARGELY AN UNKNOWN FACTOR WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS HE WILL DEAL WITH IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL COMMERCE IN THE TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT. IF HE HAS ANY VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES OTHER THAN THOSE USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH HIS CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS BACKGROUND, HE HAS KEPT THEM TO HIMSELF. WHILE HE WILL ACCOMPANY HIS LIBERAL COLLEAGUE FINANCE MINISTER WILLY DECLERCQ TO VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ON MANETARY AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, THERE IS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 02722 031825Z

NO DOUBT THAT DECLERCQ WILL BE IN CHARGE AND THAT TOUSSAINT WILL

FOLLOW DECLERCQ'S GUIDANCE, AT LEAST FOR SOME TIME. HIS OWN REPUTATION IN COMMERCIAL MATTERS IS SOMEWHAT TARNISHED BY HIS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH TWO BANKRUPT FIRMS.

4. TO TOUSSAINT'S CREDIT, ARE REPORTS THAT AS MINISTER FOR EDUCATION HE BRIEFED HIMSELF THOROUGHLY ON EDUCATION PROBLEMS AND ISSUES IN BELGIUM AND WON THE LOYALTY OF HIS MINISTRY'S OFFICIALS. ALSO, AGREEMENT OF FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1958 SCHOOL PACT WAS ONE OF THE FEW ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST GOVERNMENT. STRAUZ-HUPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, CABINET, FOREIGN TRADE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BRUSSE02722  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740107-0591  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740577/aaaacrgd.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A) STATE 87267; B) BDF, FEBRUARY 6,1, 973  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BIO INFORMATION ON MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL COMMERCE MICHEL TOUSSAINT  
**TAGS:** PINR, BE, (TOUSSANT, MICHEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005